

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. - 20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) A method for operating an electronic storage compartment system having a plurality of storage compartments in first and second operating modes ~~controlling a vending machine in which goods can be placed into storage compartments and can be subsequently removed from the storage compartments by customers, offer related data are recorded in a central data processing unit, whereby matching offers are associated with identical offer identification codes, the offer identification codes are transmitted to a plurality of electronic vending machines, storage compartments are provided for the distribution of goods are stocked with goods, and offer identification codes associated with the goods are recorded, the method comprising the steps of~~

(a) interacting with an electronic control unit located in the area of the electronic storage compartment system so as to change the selection of the available operating functions, wherein the first operating mode entails using at least one compartment of the electronic storage compartment system for a vending system and the second operating mode entails using at least one compartment of the electronic storage compartment system for a logistics system for sending and/or picking up goods ~~storing data for controlling the vending machine in the central data processing unit, converting this data into control commands for controlling the vending machine, and transmitting the control commands to the vending machine,~~

(b) stocking the at least one storage compartment operated in the first operating mode with goods to be offered,

(c) recording offer identification codes associated with the goods in the central data processing unit,

(d) storing data for controlling the electronic storage compartment system in the central data processing unit, converting this data into control commands for controlling the electronic storage compartment system, and

(e) in the case where the stored data are changed, transmitting control commands to the ~~vending machine~~ electronic storage compartment system when at least one compartment of the electronic storage compartment system is operated in the first operating mode to change the operating parameters of the electronic storage compartment system ~~vending machine~~, said operating parameters being selected from the group consisting of at least selling times, prices, offer contents, offers as a function of user groups, and the number of operating functions, and

~~(e) — interacting the control commands with an electronic control unit located in the area of the vending machine so as to change the selection of the available operating functions wherein a first operating function entails the use of the compartments for a vending system and a second operating function entails the use of the compartments for a logistic system for sending and/or picking up goods.~~

22. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 21, comprising transmitting the ~~placement~~ stocking of the goods into the ~~vending machines~~ electronic storage compartment system to the central data processing unit when at least one compartment in the electronic storage compartment system is operated in the first operating mode.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 21, comprising displaying the ~~filling~~ stocking of the compartments with the goods by means of a graphic display unit.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 21, comprising reserving goods in individual compartments for a certain period of time.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 21, comprising storing, in ~~at least~~ one of the central data processing unit and the electronic storage compartment system ~~in the vending machine~~, information about different user groups of the ~~vending machine~~ electronic storage compartment system and information about the selection of individual offers a function of the appertaining user groups.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 21, comprising transporting mailpieces to the electronic storage compartment system when at least one storage compartment is operated in the second operating mode ~~vending machines~~, placing and storing mailpieces in the at least some one of the storage compartment compartments, which is operated in the second operating mode, for later pick-up, recording the mailpieces by the ~~vending machine~~ electronic storage compartment system and removing the mailpieces from the storage compartments at a later point in time and transporting the mailpieces to a destination.

27. (Currently Amended) A ~~vending machine~~ storage system with a plurality of storage compartments for storing goods, the storage system comprising a central data processing unit (CPU) connected to ~~the~~ an electronic compartment system ~~vending machine~~ and an electronic control unit located in the area of the electronic compartment system ~~vending machine~~, the CPU comprising means for flexibly allocating the storage compartments for at least one of a vending system and a logistic system for sending and/or picking up goods, whereby the allocation means can generate control commands and can transmit them to the electronic compartment system ~~vending machines~~, and the control commands interact with the electronic control unit in such a manner that the selection of the available operating functions is changed, and wherein a first operating function entails the use of at least one of the compartments for a vending system and a second operating function entails the use of at least one of the compartments for a logistic system for sending and/or picking up goods.